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**CUSTOMER
NUMBER**

Docket No. 4424-4000US1

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Mostafa SADOQI et al. Confirmation No.: 7843
Serial No.: 10/542,185 Group Art Unit: 1773
Filed: October 19, 2006 Examiner: Hoa T. Le
For: NANOPARTICLE BASED STABILIZATION OF IR FLUORESCENT DYES

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Responsive to the Non-Final Official Action dated October 5, 2007, applicants respectfully request reconsideration in view of the following amendments and remarks.

In addition, the applicants have petitioned for a three (3) month extension of time and paid concurrently herewith the appropriate fee for extending the period of response up to and including Saturday, April 5, 2008. Under 37 C.F.R. §1.7(a) when the last day to take action falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or Federal holiday within the District of Columbia, action taken on the next succeeding business day which is not a Saturday, Sunday, or Federal holiday, *i.e.*, April 7, 2008 will be considered timely filed.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 4 of this paper.